

NEBRASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

TITLE 23 NEBRASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, CHAPTER 17
NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
LIVESTOCK COMPOSTING REGULATIONS

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NEBRASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

TITLE 23 - NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

CHAPTER 17 - LIVESTOCK COMPOSTING REGULATIONS

NUMERICAL TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>STATUTORY AUTHORITY</u>	<u>CODE SECTION</u>
Statement of Purpose	§ 54-744	001
Definitions	§ §54-701.03 and 54-744	002
Livestock Composting	§ 54-744	003
Composting Facility Operations	§ 54-744	004
Composting Facility Closure	§ 54-744	005
Emergency Operations	§ 54-744	006
Access	§ §54-703 and 54-744	007
Annotation	§ §54-701.03, 54-703 and 54-744	008

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ALPHABETICAL TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>STATUTORY AUTHORITY</u>	<u>CODE SECTION</u>
Access	§ 54-703 and § 54-744	007
Annotation	§ § 54-701.03, 54-703 and 54-744	008
Composting Facility Closure	§ 54-744	005
Composting Facility Operations	§ 54-744	004
Definitions	§ § 54-701.03 and 54-744	002
Emergency Operations	§ 54-744	006
Livestock Composting	§ 54-744	003
Statement of Purpose	§ 54-744	001

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TITLE 23 - DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY

Chapter 17 - LIVESTOCK COMPOSTING REGULATIONS

001 Statement of Purpose. The purpose of these regulations is to set the standards for composting livestock carcasses up to 600 pounds in composting facilities on the premises where they died. Neb. Rev. Stat. §54-744.

002 Definitions.

002.01 COMPLETELY COMPOSTED means to leave a carcass or carcass part in a composting facility until there is no visual sign of soft tissue or bones which have not demineralized before spreading on land.

002.02 COMPOSTING means the biological decomposition of livestock carcasses under controlled conditions to a state where storage, handling, and land application can be achieved without adversely affecting the environment.

002.03 COMPOSTING FACILITY means the facility and area located on the premises where the livestock died, which are used for composting, storing composting materials, and compost.

002.04 DISEASE VECTOR means, but is not limited to, rodents, flies, mosquitos, or other pests capable of transmitting diseases to animals.

002.05 LEACHATE means liquid which is produced by the decomposition of livestock carcasses during the composting process, which seeps from the compost pile.

002.06 LIVESTOCK CARCASSES means the dead bodies of cattle, swine, sheep, horses, mules, goats, domesticated cervine animals, ratite birds, and poultry, weighing up to 600 pounds, or the parts thereof.

003 Livestock Composting.

003.01 Livestock carcasses up to 600 pounds may be composted.

003.02 Livestock carcasses shall be composted on the premises where they died.

003.03 The owner or operator of each composting facility which composts livestock carcasses shall design and construct a composting facility to meet the following requirements:

003.03A Composting surface and drainage.

003.03A(1) Storm water run-on shall be prevented from entering the composting facility by the use of berms or other physical barriers;

003.03A(2) Leachate control shall be provided wherever leachate is generated;

003.03A(3) The composting area shall be graded to prevent ponding of liquids;

003.03A(4) The surface of the composting area shall be constructed of materials capable of supporting all equipment used and preventing infiltration of leachate;

003.03A(5) The composting facility shall be constructed to adequately facilitate the composting process; and

003.03A(6) The composting facility shall be constructed and operated so inclement weather will not cause excessive leachate or runoff.

003.03B Composting facility roads shall be constructed to allow all-weather access for managing the composting facility.

003.03C The composting facility shall have the capacity of storing the following materials:

003.03C(1) The materials being processed;

003.03C(2) The finished compost material, not to exceed 12 months' production; and

003.03C(3) Carbon material to be used in the compost process.

004 Composting Facility Operations. The owner or operator of each composting facility composting livestock carcasses shall perform the following:

004.01 Control disease vectors, dust, and litter;

004.02 Ensure that livestock carcasses are not visible from public roads or habitable structures;

004.03 Protect the facility from scavenging by animals;

004.04 Begin processing all livestock carcasses within twenty-four (24) hours after their death;

004.05 Keep livestock carcasses in the composting facility on the premises where the livestock died until completely composted before spreading on land; and

004.06 Remove all finished compost within twelve (12) months of the completion of the compost process.

005 Composting Facility Closure. Prior to closing a composting facility, the owner or operator shall perform the following:

005.01 Remove all materials from the composting facility which have completely composted; or

005.02 Dispose of all materials still in the composting process, by a method approved by the Department of Agriculture; and

005.03 Clean and disinfect, with an approved bacteriological/virucidal agent, all containers, equipment, machines, floors, and site surfaces which have been in contact with dead livestock or compost material.

006 Emergency Operations. The owner or operator of a composting facility shall have contingency plans, which fall within the livestock carcass disposal laws and regulations, for catastrophic death losses or disruptions of normal composting activities.

007 Access. The owner or operator of a composting facility shall allow Nebraska Department of Agriculture personnel access to the composting facility during normal working hours. Neb. Rev. Stat. §54-703.

008 Annotation. Neb. Rev. Stat. §§54-701.03, 54-703 and 54-744 (Cum. Supp. 2002).

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